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OCI Admin Files.

1 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

THROUGH: Chief, Presentation Staff, OCI

SUBJECT: Report on FY 63 NIS Production

1. The FY 63 NIS schedule included a commitment for OBI and later OCI to produce 125 sections of basic political, sociological, and Free World economic intelligence. As of today 107 sections (86%) of the commitment have been completed on schedule. Another 3 sections (6%) of FY 63 commitment will be completed in the first half of FY 64. Thus a total of 92% of the FY 63 commitment eventually will be completed. TAB A lists the 18 sections (9%) out of the original 125 that were not done and the reasons for their cancellation.

2. As a bonus to the NIS program in FY 63 and as a training exercise for OCI personnel, six Sections 11 (Significance of the Area) were drafted and accepted in large part for publication. The full responsibility for production of all Sections 11 in FY 64 has been transferred to OCI from OBI. At the same time the responsibility for the production of the Sections 16 (Economic Sections) on the Free World has been transferred from OCI to ORR.

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3. The FY 1964 NIS commitment for OCI is 98 sections, plus the 8 sections carried over from FY 1963, making a total of 106. The FY 64 commitment, therefore, is almost identical to the FY 63 production record. The major portion of the FY 64 commitment will be 72 sections for the 18 General Surveys, of which OCI is responsible for the Chronology, Area Brief, Locator, Significance of the Area, Sociological, and Political sections. The remainder of the FY 64 commitment will be the production of sections on Public Order and Safety, and Subversion. [The FY 64 NIS production schedule is attached as TAB B.

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4. The NIS Committee is tentatively considering 30 General Surveys as a goal for the FY 65 program. OCI has submitted a list of 39 countries which it feels to be priority areas requiring General Surveys in FY 65. OBI has unofficially responded with a selection of 30, concurring in almost every case with the OCI list. These two lists are shown in TAB C. In FY 65, OCI again would be responsible for 4 sections in each General Survey, or 120 sections in all.

5. FY 65 plans for Chapter V (Political) sections are uncertain. It has been the DD/I's position that if the commitment to produce 30 General Surveys were accepted by all NIS producers, no political sections (except perhaps Section 36, Intelligence and Security) would need to be produced. The reasons for this position are that Section 15 (Political) would be expanded to cover important basic problems and most areas of the world would be covered more frequently. Official FY 65 planning will begin in September 1963, and the NIS Committee is expected to approve the FY 65 schedule formally in December 1963.

6. In the NIS coordination process, OCI/PS has established and maintained three important channels of communication:

a. with major NIS producers through OBI planning conferences and exchange of draft manuscripts;

b. with the NIS Committee members, through attendance at committee meetings and participation in them on matters of interest to OCI; and

c. with the NIS Coordinator for State Department, Mr. Stewart Lester.

7. Since the review by State Department of OCI contributions is conducted at Embassy, INR, Country Desk, and NIS Coordinator locations, it is necessary to give State Department a minimum of five weeks' review time before final editing conferences with OBI are held. Two to three weeks of this time are required to handle and transport the manuscripts. OCI/PS has made determined efforts to give State Department more than the minimum time requested so that thorough and helpful, substantive reviews will be forthcoming. The results are encouraging. Seldom are the manuscripts given perfunctory review. Quite often when the Embassies are tardy with their reviews it is because of keen and high level interest in the product. Notable examples of this interest are shown in TAB D.

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8. The good quality of the contributions was also noted by OBI, Editorial Division. In the official ratings given to the first 47 manuscripts completed in OBI/R in FY 63, more than 27% received the highest rating given in the NIS program. When the remaining 60 manuscripts are rated the FY 63 record is expected to improve. Only in the "golden era" of 1953 and 1954 did State Department exceed this FY 63 record.

9. This performance is even more impressive when one considers the countless problems the Agency has been confronted with in the transfer of the NIS research program from State, its re-establishment in OBI, and later its merger into OCI. In addition, the Balmer Committee Survey of the NIS program has had a disquieting effect on the research staff.

10. Starting with approximately 5 competent analysts from State Department, the Research Branch Chiefs have had a high percentage of either very junior and untrained or senior and rusty researchers to train or retrain. More than 10% of the analysts have not been able to research and write well enough to remain in the program; they have either resigned or obtained transfers. For coping with inexperienced personnel and organizational changes and still turning in a fine performance in FY 63, the Research Branch Chiefs deserve great credit.

11. This would appear to be an appropriate time and occasion for you, your staff, area chiefs, and division chiefs to meet with the OCI/Research personnel to comment on the past year's performance and on the future merger plans.

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[Redacted]

Chief, Research Production,
Presentation Staff
Office of Current Intelligence

Enclosures:
As stated above

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